Besides above, Southern Railway has also been allotted an amount of Rs. 73.63 crores to meet its security requirements during 2005-06 under Demand No. 12.

Rail accident near Nalgonda

420. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers killed and seriously injured, separately, in the rail accident that occurred in the early hours of 29th October, 2005 near Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount of *ex-gratia* paid by Government in respect of those killed and injured;

(c) the cause of accident as established in the inquiry and the action taken in regard thereto; and

(d) what precautionary steps are proposed to be taken to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELLU): (a) The rail accident of the 415 Repalle Secunderabad Passenger on 29.10.05 in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, resulted in 116 deaths and grievous injuries to 26 persons and simple injuries to 78 persons.

(b) An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 115.7 lacs has been made in respect of those killed and injured in this accident.

(c) As per the provisional findings contained in the preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, the accident has occurred due to the train running on a portion of track, in hanging condition, flooded and damaged by breach of bund of Rama Samudram Tank of Golnepalli Village, leading to sudden heading up of water, flowing over the railway formation with intense velocity, scouring the river bed under the bridge and causing its settlement, and breach of adjoining formation due to abnormal heavy rainfall in the area.

(d) The breach of the Railway embankment at said location occurred due to the sudden breach of Ramasamudram Bund upstream of Railway alignment. Such water tanks and other structures are termed Railway Affecting Works. A procedure has already been laid down for the identification, inspection, maintenance of such works and notifying Railway of any possible breach due to which safety of railway line will be endangered.

A detailed manual which includes rules, procedures and general practice to be followed for the construction, inspection, maintenance and operation of Railway Affecting Works for uniform adoption all over the country has been prepared based on the recommendation of Khosla Committee. This draft manual has been circulated to all State Government for adoption and issue of the Government order. The issue of Government order is still awaited from State of Maharashtra, U.P., Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The matter is continuously pursued with respective State Governments for early issue of Government orders as well as proper maintenance of Railway Affecting Works to avoid damaged to the Railway Line and other structure and other structure in the downstream side.

In addition, patrolmen and watchmen are posted by Railways at vulnerable locations for detecting possible damage and taking action to stop trains if required during heavy rains.

Passengers killed in rail accidents

421. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway passengers who lost their lives in rail accidents, including those holding valid travel rail tickets who were killed in stampede at New Delhi Railway Station in November, 2004 and during 2004-05 so far separately, year-wise; and

(b) the number out of them whose next of kin have, so far, filed compensation claims with the respective Railway Claims Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) During the year 2004-05, there have been 231* deaths and injuries to 416* persons in consequential train accidents. During the current